

Explanation of Amendments in the Claims:

1. (original) A microphone comprising:

a hollow cylindrical housing with a lateral axis, and having two non-parallel elliptical end faces oriented mirror symmetrically with respect to a plane perpendicular to the lateral axis;

two circular transducer mounting plates extending across the housing, adjacent the respective end faces, substantially perpendicular to the lateral axis;

two microphone transducers mounted centrally in respective ones of the transducer mounting plates for receiving sound from outside the transducer mounting plates;

end panels of air-pervious material extending across and closing the respective end faces;

two sound damping tragus pads secured to inner faces of respective ones of the end panels, each tragus pad having an elliptical periphery spaced from the housing.

2. (original) A hearing aid comprising:

a cylindrical housing with a lateral axis and having non-parallel elliptical end faces oriented mirror-symmetrically with respect to a plane perpendicular to the lateral axis;

two microphone transducers mounted in the housing to receive sound from the respective end faces;

a housing mount for mounting the housing on an eyeglass frame such that when worn, the lateral axis is substantially horizontal and the elliptical end faces converge forwardly and downwardly;

amplifiers coupled to the respective microphone transducers for receiving transducer signals therefrom;

earpieces including respective earphone transducers connected to the amplifiers for receiving amplified transducer signals and converting the signals into sounds.

3. (original) A hearing aid comprising:

a cylindrical housing with a lateral axis and an elliptical end face;

a microphone transducer mounted in the housing to receive sound from the elliptical end face;

an amplifier for receiving electrical signals from the microphone transducer and amplifying the signals;

an earphone transducer for receiving amplified signals from the amplifier and converting the amplified signals into sound waves;

an earpiece for mounting the housing on a human ear with the lateral axis substantially horizontal and long axis of the elliptical end face sloping downwardly to the front.

4. (currently amended) A hearing aid according to Claim 2 or 3

including a circular transducer mounting plate extending across the housing, adjacent the elliptical end face, substantially perpendicular to the lateral axis, the microphone transducer being mounted centrally in the transducer mounting plate for receiving sound from outside the transducer mounting plate.

5. (original) A hearing aid according to Claim 4 including an end panel of air pervious material extending across and closing the end face of the housing.

6. (original) A hearing aid according to Claim 5 including a sound damping tragus pad secured to an inner face of the end panel, the tragus pad having an elliptical periphery spaced from the housing.

7. (original) A hearing aid according to Claim 6 wherein the tragus pad comprises two membranes secured together along the elliptical periphery, a stiffening

material between the membranes, and a viscous fluid in the space between the membranes.

8. (original) A hearing aid according to Claim 7 wherein the tragus pad includes a circular port on the lateral axis.

9. (original) A hearing aid according to Claim 6 including particulate material filling the housing between the transducer mounting plate and the tragus pad.

10. (original) A hearing aid according to Claim 9 wherein the particulate material is a sound damping material.

ADD NEW CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

11. (new) A hearing aid according to Claim 2 including a circular transducer mounting plate extending across the housing, adjacent the elliptical end face, substantially perpendicular to the lateral axis, the microphone transducer being mounted centrally in the transducer mounting plate for receiving sound from outside the transducer mounting plate.

12. (new) A hearing aid according to Claim 11 including an end panel of air pervious material extending across and closing the end face of the housing.

13. (new) A hearing aid according to Claim 12 including a sound damping tragus pad secured to an inner face of the end panel, the tragus pad having an elliptical periphery spaced from the housing.

14. (new) A hearing aid according to Claim 13 wherein the tragus pad comprises two membranes secured together along the elliptical periphery, a stiffening material between the membranes, and a viscous fluid in the space between the membranes.

15. (new) A hearing aid according to Claim 14 wherein the tragus pad includes a circular port on the lateral axis.

16. (new) A hearing aid according to Claim 13 including particulate material filling the housing between the transducer mounting plate and the tragus pad.

17. (new) A hearing aid according to Claim 16 wherein the particulate material is a sound damping material.

18. (new) A microphone according to Claim 1 wherein the tragus pad comprises two membranes secured together along the elliptical periphery, a stiffening material between the membranes, and a viscous fluid in the space between the membranes.

19. (new) A microphone according to Claim 18 wherein the tragus pad includes a circular port on the lateral axis.

20. (new) A microphone according to Claim 1 including particulate material filling the housing between the transducer mounting plate and the tragus pad.

21. (new) A microphone according to Claim 20 wherein the particulate material is a sound damping material.